

**REMARKS**

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4 and 21. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Randall A. Hillson (Reg. No. 31,838), at (612) 336-4707.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Dated: 21 June 2006

By



Randall A. Hillson  
Reg. No. 31,838

RAH/cjc